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THE NAME OF LINCOLN

PAPER READ BEFORE LOS ANGELES, CAL., CHAPTER, DAUGHTERS OF
THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, FEBRUARY 4, 1914,

BY MRS. KATE BRAINERD ROGERS.

It is impossible to obtain data for a complete list of memorials to the memory of Lincoln. Towns and villages without number have a street or school house or both honored with his name. For instance, Los Angeles, our own city, has two school houses, "Lincoln High" and "Lincoln," one of the smaller buildings, and a short street called Lincoln.

There are in the United States twenty-two counties and thirty-five cities or towns called Lincoln. Nine states have made his birthday a legal holiday and doubtless in time many more will do the same.

It is a well known fact that collectors set a high value upon any authentic handwriting of a noted man, and the longer the time which elapses, the more valuable the document. At a recent public auction in New York¹ the sum of \$31,517 was paid for some letters and a note book. We quote from the Springfield, (Mass.) Republican: "The letter Lincoln wrote in 1836 to Mrs. O. H. Browning, telling her that Mary Owens had rejected his offer of marriage, sold at auction in New York for \$1,250. That was a record price for a Lincoln letter until the letter that Lincoln, as president, wrote to General Grant eight days before he was murdered, was offered to the collectors. Then some one bid \$1,375 and got it. The few people here and there who happen to own first editions of Herndon's Life of Lincoln are much interested to see the price of it bound up. Two or three years ago it was selling for less than \$50. At New York recently it was sold for \$210. A few

1 Collection of the late Major Wm. H. Lambert of Philadelphia.

years hence this édition of Herndon may make one comfortably rich."

Five medals have been coined commemorative of some era in Lincoln's history. The first one was made for the campaign of 1860. The obverse side contained a relief bust of Lincoln as he looked at that time and the reverse represented him in the act of chopping a log of wood. The second one was a commemorative token of the Civil War, of which few were struck and they have become very scarce. The third was the memorial medal which was distributed in limited number in the various towns through which the funeral train passed on its way to Springfield. In the center of the obverse side was shown a funeral urn nearly hidden by a weeping willow and around the edge the words, "A sigh the absent claim, the dead a tear." The fourth was cast in 1908 and the fifth in 1909 to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of his birth. The design of the last is very pleasing. The front is very simple, showing only a relief bust and the dates, 1809-1865, but the reverse has upon it this high and just estimate of his character: "By his high courage, his statesmanship and his supreme qualities as a leader, and not less by his charity, his tenderness and his magnanimity, Abraham Lincoln belongs to the ages, and will ever stand among the world's best and greatest men."²

I find but few higher educational institutions bearing Lincoln's name and none of these prominent. The only one of importance and which was evidently named in his honor, is Lincoln Memorial University, located at Cumberland Gap, Tennessee, which was founded in 1897 and is co-educational and non-sectarian.

At a meeting of the Minnesota Academy of Science early in 1909 resolutions were passed declaring that there seems to be room and opportunity to connect the name of Lincoln in a line of science in which he was a prominent actor, as by signing and approving the act of Congress in 1861 establishing the schools known as Colleges of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts,

2 Roine Centenary Medal.

and which have since been called National Schools of Science, that it is the opinion of the Minnesota Academy that the name Lincoln ought to be applied to these schools by Congress and that all literature and all researches from such schools that may hereafter be published ought to be known as the products of the Lincoln Schools of Science. The resolutions add that the honor would be uncostly but more influential and more durable in the perpetuation of his memory than the expenditure of large sums of money in material monuments.

Raymond Riordon in the Craftsman proposed a national Lincoln memorial school to commemorate the centenary of Lincoln's birth. His plan contemplated the purchase of 160 acres of land near Washington and a boy and young man from each State sent to obtain his education. He would have the pupils build the needed buildings, living in the mean time in army tents. The first building should be of logs and each succeeding should show the growth of the nation in building material. The whole scheme seems to be somewhat visionary and as far as I am able to learn neither this nor the suggestion of the Academy of Science has been carried into effect.

The list of Lincoln statues that I present is far from complete and it would be necessary to have access to the books of a library much larger than that of Los Angeles and to have much more time at one's command than I have been able to devote to the work to make a satisfactory showing, but this number will, I fear, tax your patience. I do not mention them in strictly chronological order.

One of the first statues of Lincoln was made by Miss Vinnie Ream—now Mrs. Hoxie—when a very young girl. She received the commission from Congress and the figure stands in the rotunda of the capitol, it being completed when the sculptor was only twenty-one years of age. Lorado Taft while criticising the work severely and calling attention to the ridiculousness of consigning so important a work to a young girl with only one year's study, has to admit that the artist caught Mr. Lincoln's habitual pose to a remarkable degree.

Henry Kirke Brown was the sculptor of the statue of Lincoln that stands in Prospect Park, Brooklyn, and of the one in Union Square, New York, both erected by the State.

I found mention of a statue by W. O. Partridge, but after extensive reading of articles upon Mr. Partridge's work, I found a picture of a bust of Lincoln, but no remark in regard to it, so that it is evident that his other productions far overshadow this one.

Leonard Volk exhibited a bust of President Lincoln in Paris in 1867 and later placed statues of Lincoln and Douglas in the Illinois State House, which were executed from life studies.³

Daniel Chester French was the sculptor of a statue made for Lincoln, Nebraska. It is a standing figure with head bowed and hands clasped before him as if in deep meditation.

Wm. R. O'Donovan and Thos. Eakins were given commissions by the State of New York in 1891 to model equestrian statues of Lincoln and Grant in bas relief to serve as panels in the Brooklyn memorial arch. The artists entered on the work with enthusiasm. The results were very satisfactory. A writer says Lincoln sits with head bare, holding a queer tall hat in one hand as if saluting the regiments of soldiers as they pass by. His horse stands restive, champing the bit, with head turned as if eager to be off.

A seated statue of Lincoln by Gutson Borglum stands in front of the Essex County Court House at Newark, New Jersey, which was erected by the Lincoln Post, G. A. R., of Newark and through a bequest of Mr. Amos H. Van Horn. It is called very good.

At Hodgenville, Kentucky, the town two miles from Lincoln's birthplace, is a statue designed by Mr. Adolph Weinmann and facing the court house. It is a seated figure and has been praised as the best portrait of Lincoln in bronze.

But the statue that is the pride of the city in which it is placed and the delight of every beholder is the statue of Lincoln by St. Gaudens, which stands in Lincoln Park, Chicago.

³ These statues are plaster, but a marble statue of Stephen A. Douglas by Leonard Volk is in the Illinois State Historical Library in the Capitol Building.

Lorado Taft says of it: "When in 1887 Mr. St. Gaudens' Lincoln was unveiled it was hailed as the greatest portrait statue in the United States. It has remained so. From its exalted conception of the man to the last detail of its simple accessories it is a masterpiece. The sculptor introduces the striking adjunct of an arm chair from which the president is supposed to have risen. Before it stands the gaunt figure lost in thought or preparing to address a multitude. The left foot is well advanced; the left hand grasps the lapel of his coat in a familiar gesture. But it is the expression of that strange—almost grotesquely plain—yet beautiful face crowned with tumbled locks, which arrests attention and holds the gaze. In it is revealed the massive but many-sided personality of Lincoln with a concreteness and a serene adequacy which has discredited all other attempts. . . . It has been St. Gaudens' rare talent to give life without realism—for even the gnarled form has a grace all its own—the 'inward grace', 'which a profound master has apprehended and made visible.'"

He continues: "The value of so high an example of monumental art can hardly be overestimated. Strange, is it not, that this quiet figure which lifts not a hand nor even looks at you, should have within it power to thrill which is denied the most dramatic works planned expressly for emotional appeal!"

Passing from statues to monuments, the first one that claims our attention is the one erected to mark the birthplace of Lincoln. The place is a sparse old farm two and a half miles from Hodgenville, Kentucky, and it was the spring of clear water that attracted the attention of Thomas Lincoln and his wife, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, who were wandering about in search of a home sometime early in 1800. After Lincoln's death the farm was sold for taxes and the log cabin made of hewed logs, slabs and plank by Thomas Lincoln was sold to speculators, who carried it about the country for exhibition. Mr. Robert Collier learned these facts and he purchased the cabin and bought the farm August 28, 1905, just in time to

save it from speculators. An association was formed, called the Lincoln Farm Association, and branches were established in every State. Small subscriptions were solicited from the multitude and \$383,000 was received from more than 270,000 persons. President Roosevelt laid the cornerstone February 12, 1909, on the one hundredth anniversary of Lincoln's birth. The statue by Weinmann in the village was unveiled the same day, Mrs. Helm, the only surviving sister of Mrs. Lincoln, pulling the silken cords that parted the flags.

The completed building was dedicated on November 9th, 1911, by President Taft in the presence of 10,000 American citizens. Within the building is placed the precious old log cabin restored as far as possible to its original form. Here it will remain, we trust, for many future generations to see. The memorial stands at the head of a long broad flight of granite steps that lead up from the old spring. The speakers' stand was beside the spring and among the speakers were General John C. Black, former commander-in-chief of G. A. R., who spoke for the soldiers of the North, and General John B. Castleman of Kentucky, who spoke in behalf of the soldiers of the South.

Treasurer Mackay in presenting the memorial to President Taft on behalf of the government, said: "It is the gift of both the affluent and the lowly. It has come from a gift of \$25,000 from one and from many thousands like the good woman who sent me eighty cents for herself and seven children, and two miners who from their Alaskan diggings sent me ten dollars in gold dust."⁴

In this connection it is interesting to know that the Legislature of Illinois passed a bill asking the State Historical Society to mark the Lincoln Way, which will be from the birth-place in Kentucky to Indiana and to Old Salem, Illinois, and then to Springfield. The tracing of the way is nearly completed, and the placing of the markers will be commenced in the near future.

⁴ A statue of Lincoln in the capitol at Frankfort, Kentucky, was dedicated by President Taft, November 8, 1911.

The Lincoln monument at Springfield, Illinois, indicates the last resting place of his ashes and the consensus of opinion seems to be that it is eminently worthy. It was designed by Mr. Larkin G. Mead. The total cost was \$215,000. The base of the monument is $72\frac{1}{2}$ feet from east to west and $119\frac{1}{2}$ feet from north to south. In the north end is the tomb. As you enter the door you face six crypts, arranged side by side, where the remains of the Lincoln family, with one exception, rest.

Lincoln's body lies in a lead coffin on the end of which is a wreath and in a semi-circle his immortal words, "With malice towards none, with charity for all." In the south end is Memorial Hall, which contains various relics. Four flights of stairs lead from the ground to the terrace and on this as a base is constructed a pedestal which supports the monument, four groups of war statuary and the statue of Lincoln. Ascending the stairs to the terrace one finds a wide walk running around the stone tower and the first thing that catches the eye is a line of forty ashlar, each in the form of a shield, reaching around the second section of the base. It suggests the union of States and on each of thirty-seven ashlar is the name of a State, beginning with Virginia and the colonies, followed by Vermont, the first state admitted, and the others in their order, ending with Nebraska. Three ashlar are vacant, but it has been suggested that U. S. A. be placed on them, which may be done in time.

The statue of President Lincoln stands on a pedestal, which is thirty-five feet from the ground. The statue itself is 10 feet $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches high. In the left hand he holds the Emancipation Proclamation and in the right the pen, the arm resting on a table covered with the stars and stripes. On the right is the infantry group of statuary and on the left the cavalry. The artillery group is in the rear of the infantry, and the naval group in the rear of the cavalry. From the center rises a plain shaft of marble, one hundred and twenty-five feet from the ground.

The observance of the Lincoln centenary brought to the notice of the people of the United States the fact that as a nation no memorial had been erected to his memory. The

leading newspapers commented on it, saying that sufficient time had elapsed for all sections of the country to unite in this honor. A bill was introduced into Congress that a committee be appointed to consider the matter and to recommend some suitable memorial and two millions of dollars was the sum spoken of as available for the purpose. Senator Cullom of Illinois was made the chairman of the committee and he called to his aid artists and architects of world-wide fame.

To state the facts briefly, there were two plans earnestly advocated; the one, that the memorial should take the form of a building situated in Washington and thereby adding to the beauty and attractiveness of the city. The other that the memorial should consist of a beautiful highway to be called the Lincoln Highway, extending from Washington to Gettysburg, and that it should rival the famous Roman road built by Appius Claudius, 300 B. C., and still in use. The cost of such a highway was estimated at \$3,000,000.

Each plan had its firm advocates and in July 1913 Congress settled the matter by accepting, by an overwhelming vote, the plans for a splendidly simple and massive Greek temple to be erected on the Mall. The designer is Mr. Henry Bacon of New York, and in his report he says:

"I propose that the memorial to Lincoln take the form of a monument symbolizing the union of the United States of America, enclosing in the walls of its sanctuary three memorials to the man himself—one a statue of heroic size expressing his humane personality, the others memorials of his two great speeches, one the Gettysburg speech, the other the second inaugural address, each with attendant sculpture and painting telling in allegory his splendid qualities evident in those speeches. The statue will occupy the place of honor, a position facing the entrance which opens towards the capitol."

It is impossible to go into further details as to this proposed beautiful memorial except to say that the thirteen original States are to be represented by thirteen steps leading up to the Greek colonade of thirty-six columns, symbolizing the States at the death of Lincoln, and at the top of the wall is a

decoration supported at intervals by eagles of forty-eight festoons, one for each State of the Union today.

John Hay has said, "Lincoln of all Americans next to Washington, deserves the place of honor. He was of the immortals. You must not approach too close to the immortals. His monument should stand alone, remote from the common habitations of man, apart from the business and turmoil of the city, isolated, distinguished and serene," and as if carrying out these words, the monument will stand on the banks of the Potomac as the site best suited for the purpose. From the west front of the capitol one will get a vista of the nation's memorials to Grant, Washington and Lincoln, while beyond all these will be seen the splendid memorial bridge just authorized by Congress.

While Congress rejected the Lincoln highway, it is quite possible that before the Panama Exposition opens a Lincoln highway, extending across the continent from ocean to ocean, will be an accomplished fact. This is the plan of the Lincoln Highway Association with headquarters at Detroit, Michigan. The association proposes to build a continuous improved highway especially for the use of automobiles, but it will be open to all lawful traffic; there will be no toll charges and wherever practicable will have a concrete surface. The estimated cost is placed at \$10,000,000; \$3,000,000 is already in hand by private subscription and it is the purpose of the association to build the road by popular subscription, although State roads will be made use of wherever possible. New York City is being considered as the Atlantic end terminus. The Outlook says, "It is greatly to the credit of automobile and allied industries that this project has been formed and seems so likely of accomplishment."

And lastly—from Chicago on January 12, 1914, comes this message:

Some historical students of Illinois announced today that they would place a big boulder memorial to mark the place where Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis are said to have

first met. The site for the monument is seventy-five miles west of Chicago, on Kishwaukee Creek, in DeKalb County.

*There, in 1832, the future president of the United States and the future president of the Confederate States of America, it is claimed, first saw each other. As soldiers they had gone to that point to assist in ending the Black Hawk massacres. Lincoln was a youth of 23 and was captain of a company of militia. Davis, one year his senior, was a lieutenant just out of West Point. Incidentally, among those present at the meeting were Generally Zachary Taylor, later also a president of the United States, and Major Robert Anderson, who was commander at Fort Sumter at the beginning of the Civil War.

*The place of meeting of Lincoln and Davis is usually given as Dixon's Ferry. It has been claimed that Jefferson Davis was the United States army officer who administered the oath to Mr. Lincoln, mustering him into the service of the United States. This has been denied by Mr. Frank E. Stevens, who has made a careful study of the subject.